

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 15, 2006. The application was filed with claims 1-15. In the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and new claims 16-19 have been added. Claims 2-19 remain in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §102. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 USC §103. These rejections are respectfully traversed. In light of the foregoing and the following remarks, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-14 stand rejection under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hefner US Patent Application No. 2003/0091684. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well established that in order for a claim to be anticipated by a prior reference, each and every element of the claim must be found in that reference. Hefner discloses an injection nozzle having a nozzle needle which can be moved axially by a linear motor to open or close the nozzle. Hefner discloses a sealing element in the form of a gasket ring 43 held by a sealing insert around the needle. However, Hefner does not disclose a guide element for guiding the needle arranged within the recess of the end element containing the second sealing element, and further between the receptacle and the second sealing element, as required by claims 11, 16 and 18. Further, Hefner does not disclose that the guide element is in the form of a bushing-shaped radial sliding bearing, as required by claims 12 and 17, which depend from claims 11 and 16, respectively. Further, Hefner does not disclose the second sealing element forming a seal against the wall of the recess and against the needle, as required by Claim 19. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-14, and reconsideration of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103


Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hefner. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing argument with respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102, which argument is incorporated herein, the rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC §103 cannot stand. Claim 11, from which claim 15 depends, is patentable over the Hefner reference, and therefore claim 15 is also patentable thereover. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 and reconsideration of the claim is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and early Notice of Allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representatives below.

Respectfully submitted,


David G. Boutell

DGB/DJW/jas

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL
& TANIS, P.C.
2026 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631
Phone: (269) 381-1156
Fax: (269) 381-5465

Dale H. Thiel	Reg. No. 24 323
David G. Boutell	Reg. No. 25 072
Terryence F. Chapman	Reg. No. 32 549
Mark L. Maki	Reg. No. 36 589
Liane L. Churney	Reg. No. 40 694
Brian R. Tumm	Reg. No. 36 328
Steven R. Thiel	Reg. No. 53 685
Donald J. Wallace	Reg. No. 43 977
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: Postcard

136.07/05